

HAK ~~Ed~~
chron

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



April 29, 1971

Re Smith memo of 4/21 - outside system
Sec. Laird memo to the President

HAK said we owe the President a
better summary - in fact we have
never given the President a total
picture of briefing i. e., radar, ABM
and ICBM progress.

OSD Review Completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

~~Ed - Pts file this -~~
~~was~~

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

TOP SECRET

April 21, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: K. Wayne Smith *signed*

SUBJECT: Secretary Laird Memorandum to the President

Secretary Laird has written to the President (see Tab B) a memorandum which:

- expresses his concern over recently discovered Soviet silo construction;

- presents some of the information which you already know (i.e., there are about 50 sites, 30 of which are in western Russia, and that the total will probably go higher);

- concludes that we do not know what missile is intended for the silos, but it will be a big one;

- if followed through this could have "significant implications" for our weapons development and for SALT.

I suppose you are obligated to send this on to the President, but I fail to see the purpose of the Secretary's memorandum. The information is sketchy, the analysis is non-existent and the conclusions are obvious.

Perhaps Laird is preparing the way for some future move on SALT or on strategic programs. If so, he is moving very slowly.

Your memorandum to the President is at Tab A.

TOP SECRET